



About the Authors



Amy Elizabeth Burton is the assistant curator for the Office of Senate Curator. Ms. Burton earned her B.A. from Sweet Briar College and her M.A. in art history from Indiana University. She furthered her studies in art and architecture through programs in London and Florence. Specialized interests in ornithology and horticulture drive her current study of the flora and fauna depicted in the 19th-century murals of the Brumidi Corridors. Ms. Burton researches and writes for the office's publications, exhibits, and Web site. In 2009, she directed the documentary *Rediscovering an Historic Painting: Henry Clay in the U.S. Senate*, based on the extensive restoration of this Civil War-era painting.

Christiana Cunningham-Adams is an independent fine art paintings conservator who has lent her expertise in fresco conservation to the U.S. Capitol for two decades. After studying art history in Rome and graduating from the Istituto Centrale del Restauro in 1980, she completed an Advanced Painting Conservation internship at the Center for Conservation and Technical Studies at Harvard University's Fogg Art Museum in 1981. A fellow of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works since 1993, and recipient of the National Trust for Historic Preservation Award in 2004, Ms. Cunningham-Adams has been the senior conservator and director of the Brumidi Corridors restoration project since 1991.

Donald A. Ritchie is the Senate historian and holds a Ph.D. in history from the University of Maryland. Dr. Ritchie is head of the Senate Historical Office, which provides information, pamphlets, articles, and books about Senate history for use by senators, staff, the media, scholars, and the general public. Dr. Ritchie has published a number of books, including *Press Gallery: Congress and the Washington Correspondents*, which won the Richard Leopold Prize from the Organization of American Historians; *Reporting from Washington: The History of the Washington Press Corp.*; and *The U.S. Congress: A Very Short Introduction*.

Diane K. Skvarla became the Senate curator in 1995, having begun her career in the office in 1979. She directs the museum and preservation programs for the United States Senate under the authority of the Senate Commission on Art. The Curator's Office collects, preserves, and interprets the Senate's fine and decorative art, historic objects, and specific architectural features. Through exhibits, publications, and outreach programs, the office educates the public about the Senate and its collections. Ms. Skvarla has a B.A. in history from Colgate University and an M.A. in museum studies from The George Washington University. She co-authored the publications *United States Senate Catalogue of Fine Art* and *United States Senate Catalogue of Graphic Art*.

Barbara A. Wolanin has been the curator for the Architect of the Capitol since 1985. She is responsible for the art and historical records under the jurisdiction of the Architect and oversees the agency's art conservation program, recognized in 2010 by the American Institute for Conservation and Heritage Preservation. Dr. Wolanin prepared *Constantino Brumidi: Artist of the Capitol*, published for Congress in 1998. This book details Brumidi's 25-year career at the Capitol and highlights the conservation of his murals. Dr. Wolanin received a Ph.D. in art history from the University of Wisconsin in Madison and M.A. degrees from Harvard University and Oberlin College. She previously taught art history at the university level.